During Prime Minister's visit to Tokyo in December 2006, India and Japan agreed that international civil nuclear energy cooperation should be enhanced through constructive approaches under appropriate IAEA safeguards. The discussions on international civil nuclear cooperation framework with respect to India continue.

E-Linking of Srinagar and Muzaffarabad

4636. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed to Pakistan "e-linking" of Srinagar and Muzaffarabad for quick clearance of documents of people travelling between Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan occupied Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Granting of Visa

4637. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been brought to the notice of the Ministry that it takes inordinately long to obtain visas to visit India from European countries;

(b) whether it has been brought to the notice of the Minister that some unscrupulous agents are even demanding money under the table especially in Paris to expedite grant of visas; and

(c) the steps the Ministry has taken to expedite process of grant of visas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Indian Missions abroad including those in European Countries grant visas expeditiously in keeping with the relevant norms. Visas are granted on the same day or the next day of the receipt

of application except in the case of applications which require prior approval of the Government;

(b) No.

(c) Consular Wings in 93 Missions/Posts have been computerised and in the remaining Missions/Posts would be computerised by July 2007. In addition, outsourcing of visa applications collection is proposed to be undertaken in 30 Misisons/Posts to provide expeditious service to visa seekers. It is also proposed to improve the facilities in our consular/visa wings in Missions/Prosts abroad.

Transit Visa for Journey

4638. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any development in the pursuit of transit visa for journey by road from NE States to Kolkata through Bangladesh;

(b) whether there is development; if so, the status thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes. Since September 2004, Bangladesh has been issuing double entry and exit visas to Indian citizens transiting from NE States to Kolkata through Bangladesh.

(c) Does not arise.

Shortage of Dwelling Units

4639. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of 11 million dwelling units for urban poor in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and